

lished *Astragalus biflorus* Schweinitz. Besides the Labrador plant, which is the type, Gray cited, as supplementary, material "from Arctic America . . . ticketed '*O. campestris*' by Sir William Hooker (which may perhaps be his *O. campestris*, var. *melanocephala*), and one from Richardson named by him *O. arctica*; from the Rocky Mountains, Sir William Hooker's *O. arctica*  $\delta$ , of Drummond's collection; . . . ; and finally, a fruiting specimen of the latter from Bourgeau's collection." The Arctic American plants referred to by Gray I have not seen, but they are very likely not identical with the others. The Drummond material of *O. arctica*,  $\delta$ . *inflata* Hook. is, as stated, identical with the Labrador plant, but the Bourgeau plant is *O. Hallii* Bunge, a much coarser species with longer lanceolate free stipule-tips, longer leaves with more numerous and coarser leaflets, and capsules firmer, less stipitate and larger than in *O. podocarpa*. The Colorado plant commonly referred to the latter species is *O. Hallii* and some other Alberta specimens besides those of Bourgeau belong to it.

## EXPLANATION OF PLATES 171 TO 175

(Photographs by *J. F. Collins*)

171, *OXYTROPIS GASPENSIS*  $\times \frac{3}{8}$ , type specimen, *Fernald & Smith*, no. 25,874. 172 (lower), *O. HUDSONICA*  $\times 1$ , duplicate type, *Low*, no. 14,272; (upper), *O. ARCTICA*  $\times 1$ , duplicate type from Melville Island, *Parry's Voyage*, 1820. 173, *O. JOHANNENSIS*  $\times \frac{3}{8}$ , type specimen, *Fernald*, no. 2289. 174, *O. TERRAE-NOVAE*  $\times 1$ , *Wiegand, Gilbert & Hotchkiss*, no. 28,607. 175, *O. CORONAMINIS*  $\times 1$ , type specimen, Arctic sea-coast (Coronation Gulf), *Richardson*.

*(To be continued)*

## ERAGROSTIS PEREGRINA VERSUS E. DAMIENSIANA

M. L. FERNALD

A WEED of roadsides and railroads, which has been spreading rapidly in recent years, was described in 1917 as *Eragrostis peregrina* Wiegand, *RHODORA*, xix. 95 (1917). Since Wiegand called attention to it this ruderal grass has become generally known, but now, in *Repertorium Specierum Novarum Regni Vegetabilis*, xxiv. 323 (1928), Thellung takes up for it *Eragrostis Damiensiana* Bonnet, *Le Naturaliste*, 3<sup>e</sup> anné, no. 5 (15 mai 1881), 412 and cites two pages of references in



European literature dating back to 1821. The name *E. inconspicua* Hort. Paris, Coss, & Balansa, Actes du Congr. Internat. Bot. Paris (1867) 118 is excluded because published in synonymy. But it would certainly seem that *E. Damiensiana* Bonnet was also published in synonymy. Bonnet's paper was entitled "NOTE SUR L'ERAGROSTIS PILOSA P. B. VARIÉTÉ DAMIENSIANA." After an introductory paragraph about the plant having been called to the attention of Balansa by M. Ch. Damiens as growing in the pavement of the courtyard of the Ministry of War in Paris, Bonnet, in a careless manner spoke of "l'*E. Damiensiana* Mihi (olim)" and throughout his discussion he continued to use the binomial, until the closing paragraph, where, acting up to the conviction expressed in the title of the article, he said:

"En résumé, l'*Eragrostis* découvert par M. Damiens dans la cour du Ministère de la Guerre et signalé pour la première fois par M. Balansa dans le Congrès de botanique (1867) constitue une forme affine à l'*E. pilosa* P. B., mais qu'il était cependant utile de distinguer; je propose donc de lui donner le nom de son inventeur et de l'appeler désormais *Eragrostis pilosa* P. B., variété *Damiensiana*."

It should be noted, further, that Bonnet had no thought of treating the plant as a species. In the paragraph where he first used the binomial he explicitly stated that it was not a species: "Je ne veux cependant pas proposer comme espèce la plante du Ministère de la Guerre, ses affinités avec l'*E. pilosa* P. B. me paraissent trop évidentes et son origine est trop obscure pour qu'on puisse assurer qu'elle constitue bien un type légitime dans ce genre *Eragrostis* où les espèces ont été déjà bien multipliées et basées souvent sur de bien faibles caractères." Until the very recent publication by Thellung (1928), the binomial *E. Damiensiana* has been regularly treated as published in synonymy and not as a legitimate specific name. In fact, Thellung himself has so considered it. In 1907, elevating the plant from varietal to subspecific rank as *E. pilosa* "ssp. **Damiensiana** (Bonnet) Thell. comb. nov."<sup>1</sup> he gave as part of the synonymy "*E. pilosa* var., Cosson et Balansa! Congr. intern. bot. (1867), 117; *E. inconspicua* hort. Paris ex Coss. et Bal. l. c. 118 [in syn.]; . . . *E. pilosa* var. *Damiensiana* E. Bonnet! . . . ; *E. Damiensiana* E. Bonnet *ibid.*, in *textu* [pro syn.]" Again in Fedde, Repert. Nov. Sp. v. 360 (1908), he repeated his treatment of *E. Damiensiana* as published in synon-

<sup>1</sup>Thellung, Vierteljahrsschr. d. Naturf. Ges. Zürich, lii. 438 (1907).



ymy. To be sure, Thellung after calling the plant *E. pilosa*, subsp. *Damiensiana* and publishing a variety of it, referred to it in a footnote as *E. Damiensiana* and indicated that this was the name to be taken up if the plant should prove to be a species; and in his latest work (1928), treating the plant as a species, "**Eragrostis Damiensiana** Ed. Bonnet", he justifies the use of this name, originally published as a synonym, because, prior to the unequivocal publication of *E. peregrina* Wiegand (1917), he (Thellung) had indicated *E. Damiensiana* in a "not. (in textu, nomen eventuale)" as the name to take up should the plant prove to be a species.

Whether such an equivocal name as *Eragrostis Damiensiana* should be taken up to displace an unequivocal name of later date seems very doubtful. If, in 1907, Thellung had whole-heartedly and unequivocally taken up *E. Damiensiana* and treated it as the name of a true species, thereby validating it, there would be no question. But in view of the facts, that the binomial was first published as a synonym for a variety and by Thellung, in 1917, only as a "nomen eventuale" for a plant which he then treated as a subspecies, it would seem that its first *unequivocal* publication as a specific name must date from 1928 and, therefore, that it cannot rightly displace *E. peregrina* Wiegand (1917).

#### GRAY HERBARIUM

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SOLIDAGO CALCICOLA IN MATANE CO., QUEBEC. On Aug. 18, 1926, while botanizing in the vicinity of Metis Beach, the writer gathered the interesting Northern golden-rod *Solidago calcicola* Fernald, which was found growing sparingly, along with *Solidago macrophylla* Pursh, at the edge of a wood on the lower road from Metis Beach to Mont Joli. The determination has been confirmed by Professor M. L. Fernald, to whom I am also indebted for the identification of an earlier gathering of the same plant, made on Aug. 12, on the shore road between Metis Beach and Leggatt's Point. Professor Fernald informs me that this record extends the range of the plant into Quebec, the previous records from the limestone mountains of Gaspé Co. having been based on the Alpine species now known as *S. mensalis* Fern. A specimen has been deposited in the Gray Herbarium.—T. W. EDMONDSON, New York University.